

518 Rec'd PCT/EO 03 AUG 2001

Form PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Rev. 1-98)

Attorney's Docket Number

18617-0001

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371U.S. Application No.
(if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/890903

International Application No.

PCT/IB00/00104

International Filing Date

2 February 2000

Priority Date Claimed

3 February 1999

Title of Invention

GOLF TEE

Applicant(s) for DO/EO/US

CROUSE, Jason Lee

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English is not required as the application was filed in English. (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) will be provided when available. (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☐ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

Express Mail Label No. EL690570557US

Date: August 3, 2001

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

US Application No. (37 CFR 1.5) 09/890903	International Application No. PCT/IB00/00104	Attorney's Docket Number 18617-0001
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17. ☒ The following fees are submitted: CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):

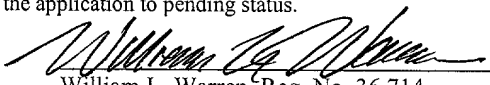
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
 nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
 and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO\$970.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not
 paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the
 EPO or JPO.....\$840.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not
 paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))
 paid to USPTO\$760.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid
 to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of
 PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....\$670.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid
 to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of
 PCT Article 33(1)-(4).....\$96.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =	\$ 860.00																																																																										
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).	\$ 130.00																																																																										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 20%;">Claims</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Number Filed</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Number Extra</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Rate</th> <th style="width: 20%;"></th> </tr> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>40 - 20 =</td> <td>20</td> <td>x 18.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 360.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent Claims</td> <td>2 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>x 78.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Multiple Dependent Claims (if applicable)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">+ 270.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$1620.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 810.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">SUBTOTAL =</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 810.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 810.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Amount to be refunded:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">charged:</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ 810.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 10-1215 in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. <u>19-5029</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: William L. Warren, Esq. SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN, LLP 999 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30309 Telephone: 404-853-8000</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  William L. Warren, Reg. No. 36.714 </div> <p>FORM PTO-1390 (Rev. 1-98) adapted Page 2 of 2</p>	Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		Total claims	40 - 20 =	20	x 18.00	\$ 360.00	Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	0	x 78.00	\$ 0.00	Multiple Dependent Claims (if applicable)				+ 270.00	TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1620.00	Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$ 810.00	SUBTOTAL =				\$ 810.00	Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$ 0.00	TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 0.00	Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 0.00	TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 810.00					Amount to be refunded:					\$					charged:					\$
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PCT/IB00/00104

GOLF TEE

It is an object of this invention to provide a golf tee that addresses these problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention there is provided a golf tee for supporting a golf ball on a ground surface, such as a teeing mound, the golf tee including:

- a base defining an operatively upper face and an opposed operatively lower face;
- a pointed shaft extending from the lower face, which is arranged to be pushed into the ground surface; and
- a plurality of bristles which extend from the upper face of the base in a vertical orientation relative to the base, wherein the bristles are arranged to define an annular support surface for supporting the golf ball, the annular support surface having an inside radius of 5mm and an outside radius of 7,5mm.

Advantageously, the bristles are arranged in clusters, typically from 6 to 15 clusters, with from 10 to 25 bristles per cluster.

The bristles are preferably made from nylon and have a thickness of 0,4mm.

Typically, the upper face of the base is circular in shape and has a width of 18mm.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Figure 1** is a side view of a golf tee according to the invention supporting a golf ball;
- Figure 2** is a cross-sectional side view of the golf tee of Figure 1, with the support bristles removed; and

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Figure 3 is a top view of the golf tee of Figure 1, with the support bristles removed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to Figure 1, a golf tee according to the invention, for supporting a golf ball 12 on a ground surface 14, is shown generally by the numeral 10. The golf tee 10 includes a base 16 defining an operatively upper face 18 and an operatively lower face 20. A pointed shaft 22 extends from the lower face 20 and support bristles 24 which are elongate and resilient extend from the upper face 18. The support bristles 24 define an annular upper support surface 26 which supports the golf ball 12. The annular support surface 26 has an inner radius R_1 of 5mm and an outer radius R_2 of 7,5mm. The support bristles 24 are made of nylon and have a thickness of 0,4mm. The support bristles 24 are arranged in clusters 28 of about twenty bristles per cluster. There are twelve clusters 28 of bristles 24.

Referring to Figure 2, the base 16 is formed integrally with the shaft 22 and is typically moulded from a hard plastics material such as acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS plastic). The length L of the shaft 22 depends on the ground surface on which the golf tee is to be used. Typically, the shaft 22 has a length of about 30mm.

Referring now also to Figure 3, the upper face 18 of the base 16 is circular in shape and has a width W of 18mm. A series of holes 30, (in this case twelve holes), are formed in the upper face 18. The twelve holes are arranged in a circular formation. About twenty bristles are inserted into each hole 30, to form the clusters 28 shown in Figure 1.

In use, the shaft 22 of the golf tee 10 is inserted into a ground surface such as a tee mound until the lower face 20 of the base 16 comes into contact with the ground surface. A golf ball 12 is placed on top of the support

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surface 26 defined by the bristles 24 and the golfer then hits the ball 12 off the golf tee with the club face of a golf club (not shown).

The advantage of the golf tee 10 according to the invention is that when the ball is hit, the face of the golf club only comes into contact with and passes through the soft resilient bristles 24 of the tee. The soft resilient bristles 24 do not damage the club face and provide very little resistance or deflection to the club face when the golf ball is hit. Another advantage is that (unless the club face hits the base 16) the tee is not broken when a ball is hit. This saves golf tees and there is less littering of a golf course with broken golf tees.

Referring to Figure 1, the height H of the support bristles 24 may vary from 30mm to 10mm, depending on the golf club used and the preference of the golfer. In practice, the golf tee 10 according to the invention is provided with support bristles 24 with heights H of 27mm, 22mm or 15mm. A golfer can then select the tee height that he or she wishes to use.

Although this invention has been described for supporting golf balls, it is envisaged that it may be used for supporting other types of balls that require a support from which they are hit or kicked.

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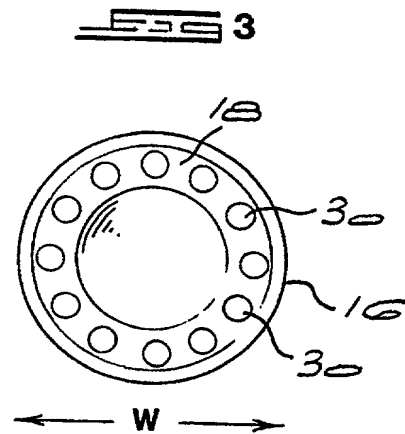
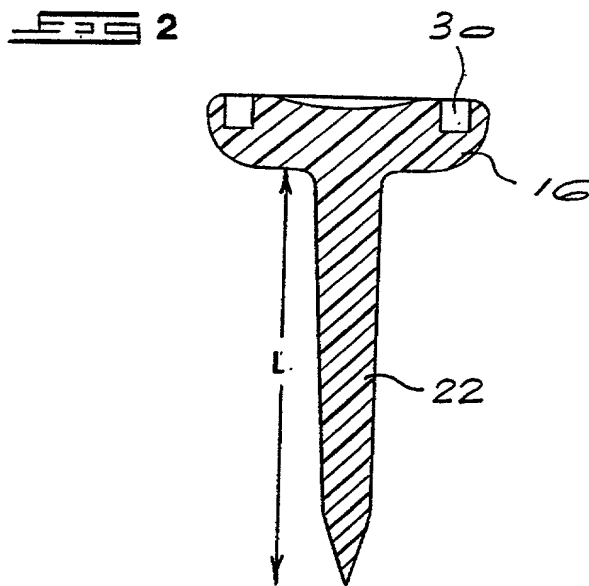
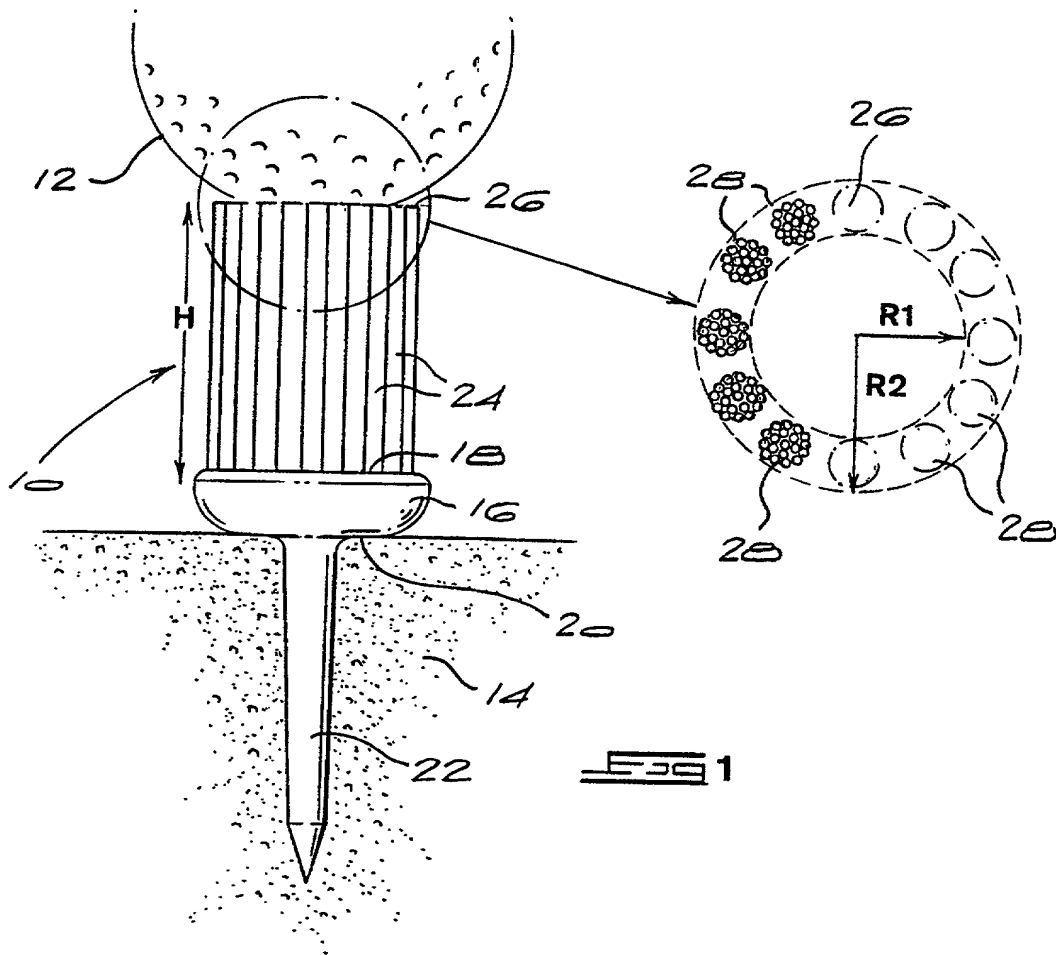
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CLAIMS

1. A golf tee (10) for supporting a golf ball (12) on a ground surface (14), the golf tee (10) including:
 - a base (16) defining an operatively upper face (18) and an opposed operatively lower face (20);
 - a pointed shaft (22) extending from the lower face (20), which is arranged to be pushed into the ground surface (14); and
 - a plurality of bristles (24) which extend from the upper face (18) of the base (16) in a vertical orientation relative to the base (16), wherein the bristles (24) are arranged to define an annular support surface (26) for supporting the golf ball (12), characterized in that the annular support surface (26) has an inside radius (R1) of 5mm and an outside radius (R2) of 7,5mm.
2. A golf tee according to claim 1 wherein the bristles (24) are arranged in clusters (28) with from 10 to 25 bristles per cluster.
3. A golf tee according to claim 2 wherein the bristles (24) are nylon bristles and have a thickness of 0.4mm.
4. A golf tee according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the upper face (18) of the base (16) is circular in shape and has a width (w) of 18mm.

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(Foreign associate use only)

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Attorney's Docket No. **18617-0001**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name: I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **Golf Tee**, the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on August 3, 2001 as U.S. Application No. 09/890,903.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used by others in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to the date of this application. I further state that the invention was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to the date of this application. *I understand that I have a duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office*, and I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate disclosing subject matter in common with the above-identified specification and having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Country	App. No.	Date of Filing	Priority Claimed Under 35 USC §119
ZA	99/0825	3 February 1999	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any prior United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each claim of the present application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status: patented, pending, abandoned
PCT/IB00/00104	2 February 2000	Pending

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issuing thereon.

I hereby authorize the U.S. attorneys named herein to accept and follow instructions from **Spoor & Fisher**, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application, without direct communication between the U.S. attorney and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney named herein will be notified by the undersigned.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: The following attorneys are hereby appointed to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Peter G. Pappas - 33,205; Daniel J. Warren - 34,272; William L. Warren - 36,714; Michael S. Pavento - 42,985; Lisa M. Cobern - 44,669; Robert A. Lester - 24,004; Erinn C. Kelly - 44,822; Jerry C. Liu - P47,754; Kevin W. King - 42,737.

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Atlanta, GA 30309-3996

Direct telephone calls at (404) 853-8000 to

William L. Warren

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Citizenship: <u>South Africa</u>
Residence: <u>50 Hannablen Street, Linksfield Ridge, 2198 Johannesburg SOUTH AFRICA</u> <u>ZXX</u>
Post Office Address: <u>AS ABOVE</u>
Inventor's signature: <u>[Signature]</u> Date: <u>10 September 01</u>

☐ Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.